GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4166
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
AIMS OBJECTIVES OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAMME
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aims and objectives and Agricultural Extension Programme;

(b) the details of the schemes running with foreign assistance under the programme; and

(c) the present status of the schemes and the States involved in their implementation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Agricultural Extension Programmes are aimed at providing effectivemechanism for technology dissemination to the farmers to facilitate increased productivity and income.

(b)&(c): Two externally aided extension schemes are being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation as detailed below:

1. Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of World Bankassisted National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)

- It is being implemented since November, 1998 in seven States namelyAndhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab covering four districts in each. New institutional arrangements for technology dissemination are operationalised by establishing Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) as autonomous bodies at district level representing stakeholders responsible for technology generation and dissemination.

- ATMAs have been established in 28 districts across 7 project States and 24 have become operational. The remaining four districts- three in Jharkhand (Jamtara, Palamu and West Singbhum) and one in Bihar (Rural Patna) − are in process of being operationalised.

- The total base cost of ITD component of National AgruicultureTechnology Project is Rs.124.37 crores for the period − November 1998 to December, 2003. So far an amount of Rs.45.43 crores has been released to the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).

2. Food Security Programme Funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- This Programme is being implemented with effect from February, 1998 with a total budget outlay of Rs.45.12 crore. The sub programmes being implemented include:
(i) Development and large-scale adoption of hybrid rice,
(ii) Maize-based cropping system for food security in India,
(iii) Sustainable dry-land agriculture by Mahila Sanghams in Andhra Pradesh,

(iv) Empowerment of women farmers for food security in Uttar Pradesh,

(v) Strengthening sustainable livelihoods & natural resource management for women of tribal Orissa,
(vi) Supplementary sub-programme on additional support to cyclone affected districts of Orissa and
(vii) Sub- programme on management support for food security.

- The sub-programmes are being implemented in selected districts in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Padesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Bihar. So far an amount of Rs.23.23 crores has been released to the project implementing agencies.

- All the sub-programmes except the one on Development and large-scale adoption of hybrid rice − have been extended for another 2 years i.e. up to December, 2004.